SOME CONSIDERATIONS ON THE Two grand Staple--Commodities of ENGLAND:

And on certain Eſtabliſhments, wherein the Publike good is very much concerned.

Humbly preſented to the PARLIAMENT,

BY

Sir *Balthazar Gerbier* Kt.

LONDON,
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CONSIDERATIONS

BY

Sir Richard Cocks Bart. K.C.

LONDON:

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Some Conſiderations on the two grand Staple-Commodities of England, *and on certain Eſtabliſhments wherein the Publike-good is very much concerned.*

AS it is manifeſt, that the *Hollanders*, by their thriftineſſe in their Maritime expeditions; by their manning of their Ships with a ſmal number of Men; and by an exact Dyet; beſides their main advantage, in which they exceed all other Nations, in having more money then they well know what to do withall, at three and foure *per Cent.* uſe; have put themſelves into a capacity to maſter the beſt profits which are to be made by the Navigation, wherein their Peace with the *Spanyards* hath ſtrengthened them more then ever they were for a hundred years before: In ſo much as that they will go nigh to ſweep away all the profits of the Sea, to the great decay of all other Navigations. For as they have theſe advantages, driving their Traffique at a leſſe charge then others do; ſo they cannot onely buy dearer, but ſell cheaper, and with a longer forbearance then any other Nation can, who pay at leaſt a double uſe for their moneies, in regard of them.

So likewiſe it is manifeſt, that for many years together, they have aimed at, and fixt upon the ingroſſing unto themſelves of the two maine Staple Commodities of *England*, wherein they

have made a very great progreſſe; *viz.* The *Fiſhing*, and *Cloath*-trade, by which they have hitherto furniſhed all *Europe*, and even the remoteſt parts beyond it's bounds, which they will the more advantageouſly continue, during their Peace with *Spain*; were it but in regard of the Paſſes: for which it is moſt certain, that they were conſtrained to pay unto the King of *Spaine*, during the Warre, forty thouſand pounds a year, which is an unqueſtionable truth; for that it appears ſo upon Record: when as during the late King of *England*'s reigne, the *Hollanders* (who at that time did traffique in Fiſh) had recourſe unto his protection into the Engliſh Seas, and Paſſes being diſtributed to free them from the *Dunkirkers*, they did likewiſe by their friends in *Spaine*, exhibite Remonſtrances to that King, alledging therein for one of their main arguments, How that it was no ſmal advantage for his Coffers to reape yearly the ſumme of forty thouſand pounds, for bare Paſſes, for their permiſſion to traffique on his Coaſt; and to bring them Food to boot: In regard whereof, they doe, nay more then ever endeavour to devance the Engliſh therein, and to obſtruct them in their Navigation towards the *New-fuund-Lands*, *New England*, *Cannada*, and the like; from whence their Ships tranſporting Fiſh into *Spaine*, doe return with Moneys, Wines, and all other precious Wares, which the *Indies* doe afford: ſo likewiſe doe they ſerve that King with Blacks, which proves a great Traffique, when as one Black being bought for nine Ryals, is ſold at an exorbitant price to the ſaid King.

And whereas Fiſh is not onely a Food to moſt part of men, but a neceſſary Conſciencious ſuſtenance to all the Nations who doe acknowledge the Roman Sea, and who therefore cannot be without the ſame; And that God hath as it were appropriated this ſpecial treaſure to the Engliſh Seas: It is by right termed to be one of the great Staple-Commodities, of which the Engliſh ſhould make their greateſt profit; ſince the *Hollanders* maintaine on the Fiſhing trade, above threeſcore and twelve thouſand perſons: And whereas the Engliſh Seas have been acknowledged by all Nations, even during the

the Reigne of King *Phillip* the ſecond, who by his marriage with Queen *Mary*, was ſtiled King of *England*: Yet it was by the Queens Paſſe that one of her Subjects, *Ferdinando Turcis* had leave to Fiſh in the *Engliſh* Seas, for the ſpace of twenty two years.

Neither would any Nation, ever ſince have been ſuffered to take away that Treaſure, in the very face of the *Engliſh*, had not the corrupt Favorites (gained with Gold) ſtopt their Kings Ears, on that particular; Inſomuch as that the Commiſſioners which were often appointed to come over for to Treat on the Fiſhing Trade were ſtopt, and alſo advertiſhed that ſo they ſent but Preſents, they might continue their Fiſhing, and the Salting of their Herrings.

When as, if the Fiſhing Trade were duely ſettled in *England*, it would prove as great a Treaſure, as that of the Gold of *Lima* and *Potteſy* is to the King of *Spaine*. For that the ſource of Nature, in this particular, cannot be exhauſted; when as the Gold and Silver Mines may be drained; and that the digging for Gold and Silver coſt deer unto the King of *Spaine*, as well as the bringing of it home unto him.

As there are ſundry means to further the eſtabliſhment of the Fiſhing Trade in *England*; So amongſt the reſt, this may be thought a good one, *viz.* To grant Priviledges and Immunities to the *Hollanders*; thereby to draw a great number of their thriftieſt men to practice the Fiſhing Trade here in *England*: for that it might fall out in that particular, as it did when an infinite number of *Engliſh* Cloathiers were in a body attracted unto *Bruxels* in *Brabant*, and who at that time did there eſtabliſh the Cloath Trade.

Moreover the putting in practice the refining of Salt, without the charges of any fuell at all, as one *Van Swaenenburgh* doth on the Coaſt of *Growningen*, would be a double advantage to this State; for that the Fiſh would ſell dearer, as the *Hollanders* doe ſell theirs, which is ſalted with refined Salt, for eight ſhillings more in the Barrel, then that Fiſh which is ſalted with Bay-Salt.

As concerning the ſecond maine Staple-Commodity of *England*, to wit the Cloth-Trade; it ought to be ſpeedily and ſeriouſly conſidered of.

For that the *French* have ſet up a Cloth-Trade at *Zedan*, whence they furniſh all *Savoy*, *Piemont*, *Lombardy*, *Switzerland*, up the *Rhine*, *Luxemburgh* and *Lorain*. And the *Hollanders*, have ſo mainly ſet up the ſaid Trade in their Dominions, that they furniſh all their neighbouring Countries with Clothes, and do vent yearly in the city of *Paris* above eight thouſand peeces of Cloth; and have gained ſo much the general cuſtom, as that nothing is more in uſe in forain parts then *Holland-Cloth*.

If therefore the forbidding of tranſporting of *Fullers-Earth* and *Engliſh-Wooll*, cannot prevent the decay of this great Staple-commodity, there cannot be a good Commonwealths-man but muſt grant, that the next beſt remedy ought to be lookt after to hinder this main loſſe, and ſuch a one as may prove to be the moſt powerfull: After that the prohibiting of the exportation of Engliſh woolls, and Fullers earth, may have been enacted with the clauſe inferring death to any man that ſhall tranſgreſſe the ſame; a publike theft being more criminal then the robbing of a particular man. And as for the point of charges, which may be alleadged to be leſſe in the tranſportation of *Fullers-Earth* from Port to Port by Sea, then it would prove by Land, yet the inconveniences conſidered, it would be better to raiſe that charges on the Clothes.

The main Remedy, next to this Clauſe in the aforeſaid prohibition, ought to be minded, but it is to be kept as *Arcana Reipublicæ*, until it be effected with thoſe who are in a like capacity in that particular as the *Engliſh* are. When as by a mutual Intereſt, (which ought to be betwixt Nations, as well as betwixt man and man) the main rule of Friendſhip; on which ſcore there is no doubt but that there may be ſuch an union of Intereſt, cemented by a mutual profit, as that thereby the *Engliſh* may render themſelves maſters of the greateſt part of the Traffique and Navigation, if it be heeded with all

all poſſible ſpeed; Nor need the *Engliſh* in any wayes to be beholden to foraign parts, which ſend them their ſilken ſtuffs, for that they may be made within the Land, and thereby a great number of poor people may get their Livings, and ſuch Monies may be kept within the Land, as are tranſported into *France*, and are tranſmitted by Bills of Exchange into *Italy* and other forain parts.

In oppoſition to which there were but two objections ever made, *viz.* The want of a Perſon to erect ſo beneficial an Undertaking. Which objection cannot be of any force, in that there are thoſe who are capable of the ſame, and are at hand to undertake the eſtabliſhing of it, if ſo be their conditions may be made good.

And as for the ſecond objection, to wit, The loſſe of Ten thouſand pounds Cuſtome, for that the bringing in of Raw-Silks doth amount unto more then the wrought Silks do; it is moſt certain, that as the half of the Cuſtome on the Silks are miſſed (to ſhun the worſt expreſſion) ſo the half of the Cuſtome of the Throlne or Raw-ſilks, being made good again unto the Merchants who tranſport it, at the yeares end, the State hath but the one half howſoever.

Whereas if ſo be the Silks be not tranſported, all the profit will remain within the Country; and all ſilken Stuffes will be had, more then fifteen *per cent.* better cheap then they are bought for at *Tours*, or in any other parts of *France*.

To ſet a greater credit on the *Engliſh* Negotiations, a bank of payment ought to be erected in the City of *London*.

What publick profit there is to be made thereby, Experience ſheweth the ſame at *Venice*, and at *Amſterdam*; ſo its commodiouſneſſe to all Negotiants, is apparents who are thereby exempted from the troubles of payments, and Receivers from the loſſes by falſe and clipt Coine.

The credit conſiſts, in that both foreign and Inland Negotiants do take their Levels in truſting their moneys and their Merchandiſes to ſuch men as have a repute of poſſeſſing a great ſtock in the Bank; on the which Widows and Orphans may likewiſe

likewiſe aſſuredly relye for the better putting forth of their ſtocks.

Moreover, by the ſaid Credit of the Banck, the ſtock of divers foreigne Negotiants may be the more attracted thereunto, whereby the State receives a great benefit, in that the more the Traffique doth augment, the more its Revenue doth increaſe; and that monies are then to be had at eaſier Rates: As for example, the Rates in *Holland*;

The main obſtructions for the practical eſtabliſhment of ſuch a Banck, hath ever been in all places, where Sovereignes ſway by Favourites, and by an Arbitrary power; which cauſed an apprehenſion that the Stock in the Banck, might be ſeized on, being the ſame apprehenſion which the French Negotiants (who otherwiſe would have eſtabliſh't a Banck at *Rouan*) have had many years ſince. Moreover, the like apprehenſions leſt that the French Kings principal Miniſters of State would have moved the Court to ſeize, not onely on the ſtock of money, but alſo on the goods, Jewels, and Plate, which are intruſted in a Banck of Loan, hath ever hindred the eſtabliſhment thereof in *France*, though the people have often inſtanced for ſuch an eſtabliſhment, and preſented their Petitions (ſigned by thouſands of hands) to their Parliaments, who though generally applauded, and avouched the goodneſſe, utility, and neceſſity of ſuch an eſtabliſhment, yet deferred the paſſing of an Act for the ſame, for that they could not perſwade themſelves that their Act could defend it againſt the accuſtomed violence of Court Favourites, who would have made no ſcruple of conſcience to move their King to ſeize on the treaſure therein contained; and for this cauſe only the ſaid Eſtabliſhment was not encouraged during *Lewis* the 13. his time, when as the Cardinal of *Richlieu's* will was a law among the French.

But the Acts of Parliament in *England* being of a more powerful and inviolable a nature, it is without all queſtion, that any man who ſhall put his hand to ſo good a work, cannot but be ſecured againſt all attempts whatſoever on a publick Banck, when as it ſhall be once eſtabliſhed in *England*, under which

which ſecurity and ſafeguard, a Bank of Loan may be likewiſe maintained, when as by the ſame (it being eſtabliſhed by all the Cities, and Market Towns, and in the Sea Ports) not only all neceſſitous perſons would be relieved, the Traffique and Navigations ſtrengthened, and increaſed, but forreigne Merchants attracted into ſeveral Sea-Ports, and a certain number of Merchants would be ſaved from ſuddain and unavoidable, though accidental Banckrupts. The husband-man would alſo be advantaged thereby, in the putting off his Grain and Chattel in due ſeaſon, as all poor people (which for want of a ſmal matter to put themſelves in a Courſe, periſh in the Streets) would thereby be put into a way of ſubſiſtence, as by experience the eſtabliſhment of ſuch Banks of Loan have produced thoſe good effects.

In ſeveral parts abroad, eſpecially in the juriſdiction of the States-General, and in their chief Towns of *Dort*, *Amſterdam*, *Haerlem*, *Leyden*, *Rotterdam*, as in their other ſeveral Towns and Provinces, as at *Middlebourg*, & *Fluſhing* in *Zeland*; in all which places, there are not any beggers to be ſeen in the Streets; for that beſides the pious orders which are obſerved in thoſe parts, as well as in divers others, by the ſeveral Pariſhes providing for their poor; ſo by the means of their Bancks of Loan, the neceſſitous are aſſiſted, and provided for in the manner of a way called, *Something to begin withall*.

Now how great a comfort, help, and bleſſing the ſame would prove to be in *England*, Legions of judicious perſons muſt needs concurre in one and the ſelf-ſame opinion; How that the ſooner the ſaid Eſtabliſhment is minded by zealous good Chriſtians, as well as good Commonwealths-men, the ſooner they muſt confeſſe that ſuch a temporal bleſſing will be extant among them, as may very much conduce towards the enabling of men to apply themſelves with a more ſetled minde to ſeek the bleſſings from above; For that men who are made of fleſh and blood, do find it a hard task to wreſtle againſt that common enemy P verty, which drives too many into deſperate courſes.

Beſides that this ſaid Eſtabliſhment allayeth all Extortions

and intolerable Uſuries, which are practiſed by ſuch who make no ſcruple of conſcience to prove as Horſe-leeches unto the people, whoſe names deſerve not to be concealed at all, ſince they are ſuch Broakers as exact on the neceſſitous, and make them pay forty and threeſcore in the hundred, together with their abominable cuſtome of Forfeitures, unleſſe their ſet dayes of releaſments are obſerved: And on the other ſide divers of them prove to be the receptacles of ſtoln goods, which are ſeldome or never brought to light again; much leſſe then thoſe books which by a new ſtyle, and of new phraſe, and another different language from the Authors intent, are become Turn-coats; in which manner the clothes and goods of men are likewiſe tranſlated, ſoon after they are tranſmitted from the Robbers to the Brokers ſhops: which abuſes and extortions were never allowed of by Acts of Parliaments, nor by the Laws enacted by them.

Neither will any judicious men grant that the ſaid abuſes ought any longer to be permitted, far leſſe ſuch others, whereby men are not onely impaired in their perſonal eſtates, but in their lands and habitations by that grand cheat of Secret conveyances, whereby mens properties and patrimonial inheritances are called in queſtion, although they are known to be their own by many deſcents.

And all this for the want of a particular Record-Office, wherein the truth and clearneſſe of mens eſtates and coſts may be known; in the ſame manner as the like is practiſed under the Dominion of the States-General of the United-Provinces where the ſaid Office is obſerved in ſo exact a perfection, as that a Lad who can but read, may by the peruſal of the ſaid Records, contained in the ſaid Office, as ſafely proceed to the purchaſing of Lands and Houſes, as the learnedeſt Counſeller of the Law; and that ſame purchaſe ſhall alſo be free from being queſtioned.

And thus all men are freed from the endleſſe Suits of the Law, from the paying of great Fees to Counſellors, Attornies, and Sollicitors, and taken from the great charge of the Inregiſtring

ſtring of Deeds; ſo alſo are they finally freed from the endleſſe charges in Law, and thoſe intolerable vexations both of body and minde, which are incident to thoſe who moſt run and toyl after that which ſtirs not of it ſelfe, and might keep them in peace at home, where each of them might enjoy the bleſſings of the Lord under his own Vine-tree.

Which ſaid bleſſing all good men may expect to enjoy even in this particular, For that the Parliament is endeavouring the ſame; and doubtleſſe it will be an Act of glad tydings to many Widows and Orphans, as well as to others who are better furniſhed: Inſomuch that each man ſhall be ſure of his own; and that in ſtead of their former paying of pounds in charges, the inregiſtring will not amount above one ſhilling, ſo that hereby they will have a treble benefit, to wit, by being ſecured, by being freed from troubles, and by the abatement of charges. And that this may happen in theſe dayes, ſhall be the zealous prayers of him that is a well-wiſher to this Land and Nation.

FINIS.